

ROUTING

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Friday March 18, 1977

CG NIDC 77-063C

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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DIA review(s) completed.

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State Dept review completed

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Friday, March 18, 1977.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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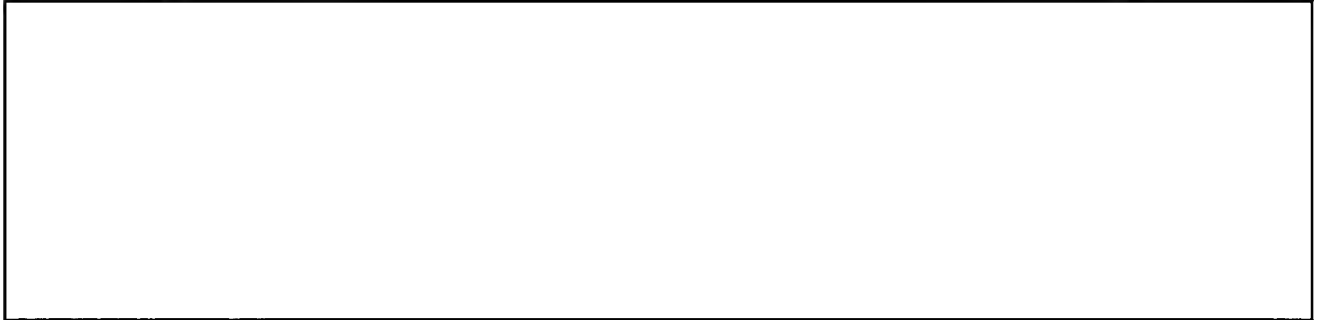
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ZAIRE: Invading Force

[redacted] The Zairian government has not yet put together a military force in Shaba Province that appears capable of stopping the organized and well-equipped former Katangan gendarmes. [redacted]

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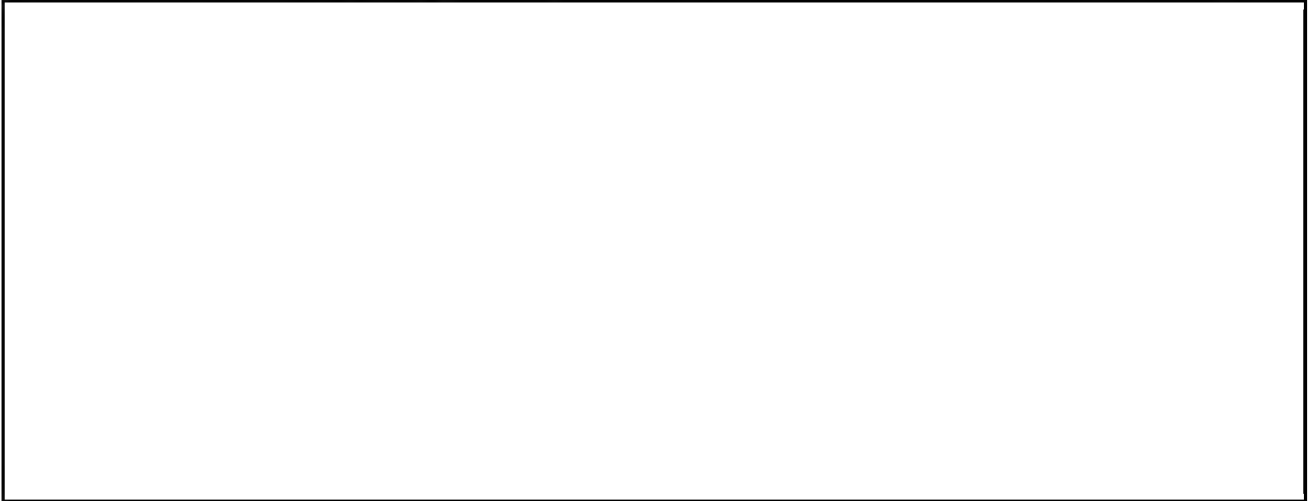
[redacted] //Zairian troops have generally fled when attacked, although there apparently was considerable fighting at Kasaji before it fell. The Zairian battalion involved in the fighting at Kisenge and Kasaji reportedly suffered over 200 casualties.//

[redacted] //A Katangan column is moving eastward toward Mutshatsha; the US embassy reported some fighting near there yesterday. The town is defended by remnants of the Zairian battalion and the armored car unit involved in earlier fighting, and an infantry battalion dispatched from Kolwezi.//

[redacted] //The Zairian military has another battalion in Kolwezi, two battalions and an air defense unit in Kamina, and two infantry battalions in Lubumbashi. These regular units are supported by a few gendarme battalions, including a mobile element based in Lubumbashi.//

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25X1 [redacted] //In addition to these units, the Zairian military is airlifting four companies from the north, bringing total re- 25X1
inforcements since the invasion began to over 2,000.//



25X1 [redacted] President Mobutu was planning to visit the Shaba re-
gion yesterday, according to the US defense attache in Kinshasa.
25X1 Mobutu may believe that his presence in Shaba was needed to
avert further disintegration of Zairian forces in the field.

25X1 [redacted] There are signs that the fuel shortage in the south
may ease soon. Short-term financial arrangements reportedly
have been worked out with Zambia, which had been demanding cash
payment, and rail cars carrying fuel were due to arrive in Lu-
bumbashi today. Zambia has indicated, however, that it does not
intend to increase fuel shipments to Zaire beyond usual levels.

25X1 [redacted] Some Belgian arms aid has arrived in Zaire, and the
embassy reports that the Zairians have asked Brussels to pro-
vide two small logistics teams to supervise Belgian assistance.
A planeload of French military aid, including munitions for
armored cars and Mirage aircraft, is due to arrive today. The
embassy in Paris indicates, however, that the French seem un-
likely to approve Mobutu's request for five heavy transport 25X1
helicopters.



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YUGOSLAVIA: Meeting with Romania

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[REDACTED] Senior Yugoslav and Romanian officials reportedly plan to meet soon in Bucharest to coordinate strategy on European security matters and to discuss their differences about the nonaligned movement.

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[REDACTED] Senior officials of the two states consult frequently on common problems, especially on any new Soviet initiatives that might impinge on their independent foreign policies. The most recent Yugoslav-Romanian summit was last September--when Romanian President Ceausescu visited Yugoslav President Tito in Yugoslavia.

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[REDACTED] A Yugoslav diplomat said the meeting will occur within the week, and that Belgrade's representative is likely to be either senior ideologist Edvard Kardelj or Stane Dolanc, Tito's deputy in the party.

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[] The talks reportedly will focus on preparations for the follow-up European security conference that will be held in Belgrade beginning in June. The Yugoslavs want a Romanian assessment of a meeting of senior party ideologists in Sofia in early March, where the USSR presumably presented its plans for the conference in Belgrade.

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[] The two communist independents will also discuss a Pakistani proposal for a summit of developing countries. Romania favors the meeting, and Ceausescu lobbied for it during his recent African tour. Yugoslavia, however, opposes the initiative because it risks a split among the nonaligned nations. India, for example, opposes the summit.

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[] During their summit last fall, Tito and Ceausescu decided to set aside several long-standing bilateral problems and to concentrate instead on cooperation. We expect this approach to prevail during the coming talks, because both nations are eager to obtain benefits from the European security meeting. []

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EC-PORTUGAL: Soares Tour Results

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[] //Portuguese Prime Minister Soares has described his tour of the EC capitals as a major political success. Soares completed the second stage of his tour this week with visits to Paris, Bonn, The Hague, Luxembourg, and Brussels.//

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[] //Leaders of the Nine told Soares they would support eventual Portuguese membership in the Community, but they privately made it clear that the opening of formal negotiations on Portuguese accession will depend on continuing political stability in Portugal and progress toward resolving its economic problems.//

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[] //Soares plans to present a formal application for membership by March 31. The EC foreign ministers are likely to accept the bid in April or May. They will then instruct the EC Commission to draw up an opinion on the application--a process that may take about a year.//

- 25X1 [] //Assuming a favorable Commission opinion, the Nine could then decide to open negotiations on Portuguese accession. Although Soares believes negotiations can be completed in two or three years, some EC members have indicated a longer period is likely. Once negotiations are concluded and Portugal becomes a member, a transition period of at least five years would follow to allow Portugal to complete the process of harmonizing its laws with Community regulations.//
- 25X1 [] //Some EC officials are proposing an alternative approach providing for several stages of accession. Several members for example have suggested involving Portugal in the EC's political cooperation discussions prior to membership. Soares reportedly has rejected this idea, saying Portugal would welcome a closer political association with the EC before it becomes a member, but not if it were intended as a substitute for full membership.//
- 25X1 [] //EC and Portuguese officials plan to set up a more formal consultation mechanism to ensure closer cooperation while the Commission is preparing its opinion. The Commission wants to be consulted before Portugal's 1977 to 1980 economic program is submitted to parliament in mid-May.//
- 25X1 [] //During his tour, Soares said Portugal is already taking steps to harmonize its legislation relating to agriculture and investments with Community statutes. Soares called for further discussions on harmonization in trade and finance before and during the accession negotiations.//
- 25X1 [] //EC officials told Soares that serious efforts to reform Community institutions and improve the internal decision-making process must accompany negotiations on the enlargement of the Community. The French and the Italians are also likely to seek assurances that their farmers will not be hurt by Portuguese or Spanish entry.//
- 25X1 [] //The French are particularly concerned that the Community make no concessions to Greece in the agricultural sector that would set an undesirable precedent for talks on Portuguese and Spanish accession. Substantive negotiations on Greek entry to the Community began last fall.//

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[REDACTED] //Recent reports that the Nine, and particularly the French, would prefer to handle the Portuguese, Spanish, and possibly the Greek applications as a group have sparked strong protests from the Portuguese and the Greeks who oppose any such linkage, insisting that each application should be considered on its own merits.//

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[REDACTED] //Although senior French officials insist that France fully intends to treat the three applications separately, they maintain nevertheless that the Nine must keep in mind the broader implications of adding three Mediterranean states to the Community as the negotiations with individual states proceed. [REDACTED]

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FTAI: Discussions about Independence

25X1 [] Discussions in Paris about the independence of the French Territory of Afars and Issas have reached an impasse because the various factions from the territory cannot agree on arrangements for electing a new government. If major differences among the factions continue, Ethiopia and Somalia will be encouraged to become even more involved in the FTAI's domestic politics, increasing the possibility of an eventual clash between the two countries.

25X1 [] Agreement has already been reached to hold a referendum on independence next month and for France to grant independence in June. The French could turn over power to the present

assembly, but are reluctant to do so because they believe it is not representative. The question of continued French military presence in the FTAI has not been settled, but the French believe all factions favor it. [REDACTED]

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NORTH KOREA: US Troop Withdrawals

[REDACTED] North Korea seemed to offer contradictory signs yesterday of its attitude toward the US.

[REDACTED] Pyongyang broadcast a Lao news commentary that sharply criticized President Carter's remarks on Korea at a recent press conference; the commentary noted that US force reductions in Korea would take up to five years and involve US ground but not air units. It mentioned the President by name, concluding that he intends to continue "propping up" South Korea, and that "aggressive" US policy had not changed.

[REDACTED] By replaying these Lao remarks North Korea has broken somewhat with its practice of refraining from direct criticism of the new US administration and its policy on South Korea. North Korean media have alluded to US consideration of troop withdrawals, and warned that some US "bellicose circles" are opposed, but in general the North Koreans have appeared to be waiting for a concrete US announcement.

[REDACTED] A leading official of the pro - North Korean association in Japan, however, reportedly sought out US correspondents in Tokyo to make a strong pitch for improved US - North Korean relations.

[REDACTED] Neither the broadcast nor the news conference contained an authoritative North Korean statement, but they probably indicate the North Koreans will make stronger and more direct statements on the US administration as the US handling of the troop withdrawal issue evolves. [REDACTED]

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